

European Social Watch Report — work in progress...

The Eurostep's Research Team, who is coordinating the production of the first European Report, collected in the last months 21 national contributions from the Social Watch Coalitions present in Europe and other European organizations who accepted to draft a country report on "migration". Being the first Social Watch publication at the European level, the response got so far can be considered quite good. The region is rather extensively represented, in particular, the Balkan and Mediterranean area.

In addition to the country reports, ad hoc thematic articles have been drafted by organizations which specific competences on the migration theme. Under the coordination of the Eurostep's research team, the thematic articles focus on several hot issues concerning migration, such as coherence between migration and development policies, refugee policy, racism and discrimination, human trafficking, remittances... Over the summer the editing of both country reports and thematic articles will be finalized.

A statistical section providing with updated quantitative information on the migration phenomena at the European level will be included as well in the Report thanks to the data selection and research carried out by Lunaria.

The launch of the European Social Watch Report is scheduled to take place in Brussels on December the 18th which is the International Migrant Day. MEPs from all countries as well as other fonctionnaires from the European Institutions will be invited at such a launch event. A proper and effective promotion strategy of this Report for advocacy purposes at the national and European level needs to be defined in the coming months.

Overview of the project activities: future steps...

Next period: August 2009 — November 2009

Project Steering

Committee meeting,
Warsaw,
22-23 September



Researching and reporting activities

- Production of the national SW Report 2009 in the three countries
- Production of the European Report on Migration
- Production of an Advocacy Toolkit on social development addressed to Italian Local Authorities

Raising awareness and lobbying activities

- Production of SW campaigning materials at the national level
- Planning of the launch event of the national report (format, speakers, venue...)
- Planning of launch event of the European Report in Brussels

For further information...

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Promoting Social Development: building capacities of Social Watch national Coalitions

Issue n. 3

July 2009



Training sessions: tips and suggestions

Project Information

Title: Promoting Social Development: building capacities of Social Watch Coalitions

Duration: March 2008 – February 2011

Beneficiaries: national Coalitions of Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic

Partners of the project:
Ucodep (IT) Lead Agency;
Karat (PL); Ekumenica Akademie of Prague (CZ);
Mani Tese (IT); Lunaria (IT);
Fondazione Culturale Responsabilità Etica (IT); Oxfam Novib (NL); Eurostep (BE)

Funding Agency:
European Commission



In March 2009, a training module was developed to equip staff of Social Watch Coalitions in Italy, Czech Republic and Poland with the right tools and instruments to do lobby and advocacy and to develop effective public campaigns.

The training was provided in each country by BBO, a Dutch consultancy agency specialized in advocacy in International Cooperation and Development.

The module focused on enhancing the knowledge of the three Coalitions members on concepts and techniques for policy influencing and skills to develop concrete strategies for policy influencing and effectively engage with decision makers and media.

These training sessions were attended by 12 participants in Italy, 6 in Czech Republic and 13 in Poland.

Here below are shortly reported the main basic findings and recommendations emerged from all those trainings.

- Need to mobilize support even within its own organization (both at staff and directors level);
- Need to clarify the vision and mission;
- Need to clarify the added value of belonging to the SW coalition;
- Need to clarify the mandate and coordination of the coalition;
- It is advisable to make a yearly (or multi-year) concrete program of action;
- It is advisable to become more engaged in proactive influencing (not only reactive);
- It is advisable to plan more structurally the monitoring of government policies; longer term contacts need to be established with decision makers and journalists (to be contacted not only when the coalition needs them, but also when the coalition can offer them information);
- It is advisable to make an inventory of joint contacts with decision makers and journalists.

Research on SW successful case studies

The publication "*Learning from successful experiences*" has been uploaded on Social Watch international website (www.socialwatch.org) and it has been publicized among the network's members. Both versions, the full one and a synthesis (the latter edited by the International Secretariat) are now available to all network's members.

In the coming weeks, French and Spanish version of the short version, will be uploaded as well.

If you want to contribute at drafting this newsletter, please come back with your suggestions and ideas by writing at federica.corsi@ucodep.org

SW International Secretariat

c/o Instituto Tercero Mundo
(ITEM)

Montevideo, Uruguay

If you are interested in knowing more about SW network
www.socialwatch.org



The launch of the first SW Czech Report took place on March the 14th as a part of a full day seminar “*Social rights and the way out of the crisis*”. During such a seminar a specific presentation of the 2008 Report was given by the national coordinator of the coalition as well

as a presentation related to the indexes (GEI and BCI). In addition, a representative of the Centre for Global Studies (member of the Czech SW coalition) reported about the activity of Social Watch at the World Social Forum in Belem. About 26 people attended the

Launch of the Czech SW Report

Prague, 14th of March 2009

seminar. Even if the number of participants was not very high, the very positive note was the good level of interest risen, as shown by a great number of questions asked.

Besides this event, the Czech coalition organized on April the 1st a press conference where Roberto Bissio took part. Among the journalists who attended the press conference there was as well a journalist from the Czech News Agency. The news was reported by the Czech daily Právo and several electronic media quoted it.

During the last months, the national report was presented as well in other contexts such as lectures at the College of Social Affairs in Prague, meetings with other Czech CSOs.

Our Future Earth: event promoted by the Italian Social Watch Coalition

Florence, 30th of May 2009

Within the VI edition of Terra Futura (Our Future Earth) the Italian Social Watch Coalition organized a full-day seminar with three sessions discussing the social effects of the global crisis.

Terra Futura is an Italian fair meeting whose main cornerstones are the tasks and the “good practices” of social, economic and environmental sustainability which usually takes place in Florence on the last weekend of May.

Based on the leitmotif of the last SW Report “rights are the answer”, the event tried to give an analysis of the crisis, its impact on people, the social role of the State and the responses suggested at different levels: from local to national to global.

In the morning session, which was co-promoted with an other network of Italian CSOs, named Help Local Trade, a round table took place on how to promote social development at the local level and how Local Governments are trying to cope with the current crisis. Among the speakers there were a few representatives from Italian Local Authorities, from an Association of Municipalities, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (department dealing with decentralized international cooperation) and special guest was Ms Gilda Farrell, Head of the Social Cohesion Research and Development Division of the Council of Europe.

In the afternoon, other two different sessions took place. The first one was focused on thematic analysis of the impact of the crisis at the national level. The theme selected for discussion were housing, welfare, labour, poverty. The leitmotiv were how to measure the impact of the crisis.

Indeed, a special focus during the seminar was given to the discussion about indicators for measuring the progress, being this one a current and controversial hot issue dealt with at the institutional level as well as among CSOs. The promotion of the debate on this very important issue is in line with one of the objective defined in the Action Plan by the Italian coalition. What progress means and what should be measured is a very sensitive theme that needs to be broadly discussed and requires a multisectoral approach so that several dimensions (social, economic, environmental, cultural...) can be taken into account.

The second afternoon session dealt with responses to the crisis suggested at the global level by networks of civil society organizations and international institutions such as the OECD. The speakers who took part to the discussion were: a representative of the New Economic Foundation, the coordinator of the Czech Social Watch Coalition, the spokesperson of the Italian coalition of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), representative of the European network for public water and special guest was Mr Enrico Giovannini, Chief Statistician of the OECD.

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Drafting a medium-term Action Plan for the Italian Coalition

On July the 13th the Italian coalition met for finalizing its medium-term Action Plan 2009-2011. It was the final meeting of a process one year long which started with a general brainstorming with all the members of the Italian coalition. This initial discussion was followed up at each periodic coalition meeting where specific time was dedicated at drafting the Action Plan by identifying all together the main objectives to be achieved in the coming three years in line with the general mission of the international network. The Action Plan is now in its final version and it's going to be finally approved by the end of July.

Along with the Action Plan which basically defines the main themes to be investigated and related actions to be carried out in the next future, the Italian coalition agreed upon an internal Memorandum of Understanding reflecting the way of functioning of the national platform. This Memorandum is intended to better clarify duties and rights of membership as well as modalities for coordination, funding and management of the coalition activities at the national level.

Letter to the Italian Government to press for high level participation at the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis

12th of May 2009

Thanks to the initiative of one of the Italian SW Coalition member (CRBM — Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale), the Italian Social Watch Coalition along with the Italian Global Call against Poverty sent to the Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi and to the Italian government Sherpa for the G8 Ambassador Massolo a letter requiring a high level participation of the Italian Government at the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic crisis and its impact on Development. It represented an effort (even if unfortunately without successful outcome) of the Italian civil society to point out once again the importance of the UN fora and to stress the necessity to tackle the current systemic crisis with proposals shared at the global level. Indeed, such a forum allows direct involvement of the States from the South which, being the most vulnerable, are suffering the most serious consequences of a crisis mainly caused by the Western countries.

International Women Day

On March the 8th, campaigning materials were electronically launched by Karat in Poland in order to raise awareness on gender issues. A press release mostly based on GEI data was circulated among media.